

Message Text

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APPROVED BY OES/SCI/BMP:AERICHMOND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EGEN, RP

SUBJECT:GOP PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREE-
MENT

REF: A) MANILA 3457, B) STATE 89963

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT AVERSE TO EXPLORING WITH GOP THE
FEASIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC
AGREEMENT. THE DRAFT TEXT INFORMALLY PROVIDED BY THE
EMBASSY TO GOP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR COULD BE A
SUITABLE WORKING DOCUMENT.

2. BEFORE PROCEEDING MUCH FURTHER, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL TO KNOW MORE PRECISELY THE GOP'S THOUGHTS ON THE
SCOPE AND EMPHASIS OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE GOP'S EXPECTA-
TIONS REGARDING THE US INPUT. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO
KNOW WHICH CURRENT OR PLANNED SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
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ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE US AND THE PHILIPPINES COULD BE

BROUGHT UNDER THE MANTLE OF AN AGREEMENT. AS FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN, THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITIES IS RATHER MODEST. A CHECK OF RECORDS HERE INDICATES THAT AID, BOTH IN ITS INTERNATIONAL AND COUNTRY PROGRAMS, IS THE US AGENCY PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED, WITH SEVERAL IMPORTANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WITH SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS UNDERWAY IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PART OF WORLD-WIDE STUDIES. IN ADDITION TO

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AID'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,

THESE INCLUDE CASE STUDIES OF LOW COST ROOFING, WIND RESISTANT STRUCTURES, UTILIZATION OF SECONDARY WOODS AND ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING SMALL INDUSTRY. OTHER PROJECTS MANAGED BY USAID MANILA MAY ALSO HAVE ELEMENTS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COOPERATES WITH THE PHILIPPINES IN ITS OCEANOGRAPHIC WORK IN THE SEA AREA AND FUNDS A FEW US DOMESTIC PROJECTS WHICH INVOLVE COLLABORATION WITH PHILIPPINE SCIENTISTS OR INSTITUTIONS.

3. THE ABOVE PROJECTS HAVE ALL BEEN CONDUCTED, OF COURSE, WITHOUT A FORMAL S&T AGREEMENT, A FACT WHICH HAS NOT DETRACTED FROM THEIR SUCCESS. INDEED, THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT TO STIMULATE S&T COOPERATION, THEREFORE, SEEMS TO BE LESS THAN COMPELLING.

4. IF, HOWEVER, THE GOP PLACES GREAT STOCK IN A FORMAL AGREEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER SUCH, PROVIDED THAT THE FINAL RESULT IS NOT AN OPEN-ENDED MECHANISM FOR ONE-WAY TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD CREATE EXTENSIVE FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE OBLIGATIONS TO THE US, BUT IS ONE THAT WOULD IN FACT FOSTER GENUINE S&T COOPERATION. A COMMITMENT FOR WHICH ADEQUATE RESOURCES CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY EITHER THE USG OR GOP COULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE IN THE LONG RUN.

5. BEARING IN MIND THE FOREGOING, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ENQUIRE INFORMALLY OF THE GOP ABOUT ITS VIEWS IN GREATER DETAIL, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE QUESTIONS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 2. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF POSSIBLE, WHAT US/PHILIPPINES SCIENCE PROJECTS NOT NOTED IN PARA 2, IF ANY, ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE, AND WHAT ADDITIONAL PROJECTS COULD APPROPRIATELY BE INCLUDED UNDER AN S&T AGREEMENT. THE VISIT OF DR. ALLEN HOLT OF NSF ON MAY 22-27 (REF B) MAY ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. AN AID/NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS SURVEY TEAM ON
STANDARDIZATION AND MEASUREMENT SERVICES, LED BY MR. STEF-
FEN PEISER, CHIEF OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF
NBS, WILL BE IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM MAY 3-19. TEAM
REPRESENTATIVES COULD PROVIDE INTERESTED EMBASSY OFFICERS
WITH FULLER INFORMATION ON THE AID/NBS PROJECTS IN THE
PHILIPPINES. MR. PEISER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY
SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN MANILA. KISSINGER

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